



# Hector De La Torre

## News Release

Assembly Member 50<sup>th</sup> District

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### **Green Jobs Curriculum Legislation by De La Torre Passes Assembly**

*Bill to create standardized training program to meet state's solar and clean energy demands*

**Sacramento, Calif.** – By a bipartisan vote of 61-18, the Assembly passed Assembly Bill 2224 authored by Assemblymember Hector De La Torre (D-South Gate). The legislation will help California create a training curriculum for “green jobs” to meet solar and clean energy demands.

This curriculum could be provided by high-schools, technical schools, colleges, private institutions and non-profit organizations to educate a new generation of workers pursuing careers in clean energy. The bill will also to provide outreach and assistance to schools on creating training programs in the clean technology industry by July 1, 2009.

“The growing demand for increased energy efficiency has generated a need for a trained workforce to build the state’s clean energy infrastructure,” said De La Torre. “Assembly Bill 2224 will help train workers to install and maintain solar panels, weatherization, and other energy efficient measures to ensure that California remains the leader in green technology.”

Current law requires all electricity corporations to invest in energy efficiency programs to meet California’s global warming mitigation requirements. AB 2224 will require the Labor and Workforce Development Agency in collaboration with public and private stakeholders to create a California Clean Energy Curriculum and Training Initiative.

Assembly bill 2224 is co-sponsored by Environment CA and the Latino Issues Forum. It is supported by the Sierra Club, the Clean Power Campaign and the American Lung Association of California. It will next be heard in a Senate policy committee.

#### **Background:**

On September 27, 2006, AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act, was passed by the California Legislature. This legislation represents the first enforceable statewide program in the U.S. to cap all emissions from major industries that contribute to global warming.

In addition, Congress passed the Green Jobs Act of 2007, sponsored by Rep. Hilda Solis (D-CA) and Rep. John Tierney (D- MA), which authorized \$125 million per year to create the "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program". The Green Jobs Act (Act) is an initial pilot program to identify needed skills, develop training programs, and train workers for jobs in a range of industries - including energy efficient building, construction and retrofits, renewable electric power, energy efficient vehicles, biofuels, and manufacturing that produces sustainable products and uses sustainable processes and materials.

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